

The Observer

MAGAZINE

04.11.12

What's driving Jessica Ennis?

Interview
by Carole
Cadwalladr

PLUS Judy Chicago Tim Hughes **Todd Selby** Lauren Laverne **Mariella Frostrup** Jay Rayner

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Carole is a feature writer on the *Observer* and the author of *The Family Tree*. This week she interviews our cover star, Jessica Ennis



TIM HUGHES

As chef director of the Caprice group, Tim has a fair claim to run London's best restaurants. This week, he reveals J Sheekey's best shellfish recipes



RACHEL COOKE

Rachel is fearless and brilliant as an interviewer. This week she speaks to the equally uncompromising artist Judy Chicago

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HOMES THE SELBY



WORDS,
PHOTOGRAPHY
AND ART
TODD SELBY



PHILIP OAKLEY



In an old pub in St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, Philip and Olivia run a design and manufacturing business centred on their passion for kitsch and fairground collectables



Philip and Olivia, and Jarvis and Joe the Cocker Spaniels, live in what was once an old, dark pub next to the sea which they converted into their workshop, showroom and home. They have an incredible collection of fairground memorabilia, including a lot of items from Blackpool, where Philip used to work. Philip has built the best hidden bar I have ever seen. To find it you pull on a painting in his living room and a ladder folds out. Another highlight is their couch, which is covered in hundreds of charity-shop tapestries.

Once a year they hold an open house which you should check out if you are in the neighbourhood (see oakleyilluminations.co.uk). ■

Written in lights: (clockwise from far left) Philip holding a mighty pink pound sign; a 1980s Blackpool peacock illumination; Jarvis and Joe sit on a sofa that Bruce Robbins made from charity-shop tapestries; and Philip and Olivia in the secret bar hidden behind a painting

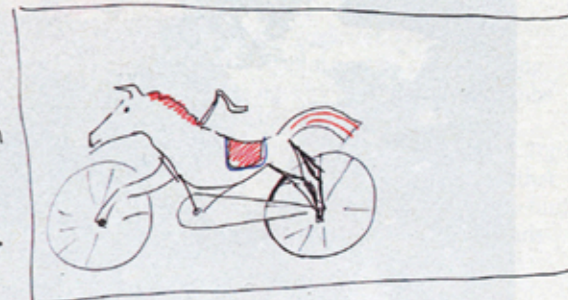


HOMES THE SELBY



Hi Philip + Olivia!

Philip could you design a new bike for yourself

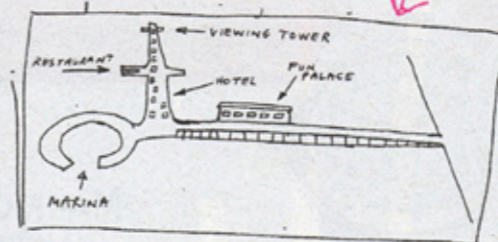


Philip could you describe some of your ~~most~~ wildest outfits?
Savile Row cut black rubber suit with matching shirt, tie, gloves, hat and mask. Savile Row made camouflage suit with matching shirt, tie, hat, shoes and accessories.

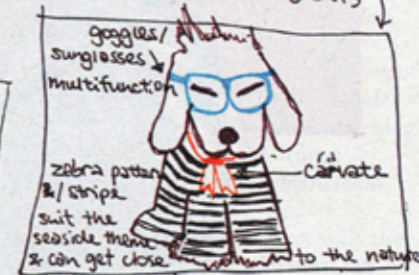
What are the best things about Hastings?

The sea, the festivals, the architecture, the creative population, property prices!

could you design + label a new pier for Hastings



Olivia could you design a new outfit for Jarvis?



All the fun of the fair: (clockwise from above) Philip in the house's showroom on the ground floor; a mystery head; Philip has more than 100 mirror balls; walking the dogs along the promenade; his braided-cable collection; and an old hip bath is now a dog's bed

